

# STATE OF ALABAMA BOARD OF **PARDONS AND PAROLES**

L.I.F.E. Tech Transition Center was created for male parolees from the Alabama Prison System who need additional education and treatment to reduce the risk of recidivism.

L.I.F.E. (Life skills Influenced by Freedom and Education) Tech opened April 1, 2006. The center provides additional educational and treatment services to males paroled to the center. The center's goals are to

- Provide an alternate way of thinking concerning lifestyles
- Ease the transition into home life and reestablishment of family ties
- Encourage positive decision making
- Provide a positive environment to develop future productive, tax-paying citizens

The residents are required to remain onsite and are allowed to go on visits/pass once they become eligible. Visits/passes are earned through program participation and progress in the program.



*Attending the announcement in Montgomery of the opening of Thomasville LIFE Tech.*

"By educating and treating offenders, we are not only helping them improve their lives, we are reducing the chance they will return to crime and drug abuse. My hope is that the reentry programs will improve public safety and reduce the burden on law enforcement and corrections."

*Former Attorney General John Ashcroft*

## *State Agency Partners*

Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education  
Alabama Department of Corrections  
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services  
Alabama Department of Mental Health  
Alabama Department of Public Health

**L**ife skills  
**I**nfluenced by  
**F**reedom and  
**E**ducation  
  
**TECH**

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# **THOMASVILLE L.I.F.E.TECH**

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## **Mission Statement**

*It is the mission of this agency to promote and enhance public safety through cooperation and collaboration with the legislature, the courts, the Department of Corrections, criminal justice agencies, victims, and the community by providing investigation, supervision, and surveillance services in a holistic approach to rehabilitating adult offenders.*

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Dwayne Spurlock  
Cliff Walker

Eddie Cook, Executive Director

# Thomasville L.I.F.E. Tech ... an overview

## Education



*Residents are given the opportunity to pursue a GED or skills training they will need to find a job.*

Education services will be provided by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education via Coastal Alabama Community College. Residents are assessed and a curriculum is tailored to fit their specific needs. Coursework options include adult basic education, GED preparation and testing, remediation, computer skills, and job readiness. Students interested in gaining technical skills can take courses in construction trades including carpentry, welding, painting and drywall, and electricity; or, they may choose small engine repair or horticulture. Each student receives over 600 hours of NCCER-approved instruction.

## Therapeutic Community



*Residents receive group and individual counseling on job readiness, substance abuse, anger management, and more.*

Treatment services are provided by a contracted agency, Bridges of Alabama. The foundation of the program is the Therapeutic Community Concepts, which are essential to maintaining a drug-free lifestyle in social contexts. With clinical supervision, this peer-led, peer-driven environment encourages the men to become active participants in their recovery. Each program

participant follows a multidisciplinary treatment plan customized to meet his individual needs.

The program is implemented in three phases and will include

- Accountability and Therapeutic Groups
- Addiction Education
- Individual Counseling Sessions
- Organized Recreation
- Substance Abuse Treatment

...as well as value-added programs and classes such as Parenting Education, Conflict Resolution, Employability Skills, Smoking Cessation, and many more.

## Supervision

Residents are assigned a parole officer upon arrival at the center. The officer supervises the resident and enforces parole conditions and center rules.

Parole officers provide a safe and secure environment to:

- Protect the Public
- Protect Staff
- Protect Property
- Protect Residents assigned to the Center

Parole officers are sworn law enforcement officers and assist local county, city, and state agencies as needed.



*Parole officers are assigned to each resident.*

## Background

The purpose of the transition centers is to help parolees make the transition from prison to society after undergoing extensive mental health and substance abuse treatment as well as vocational training. The Thomasville facility will allow for about 500 male inmates a year to undergo its re-entry treatment programs.

The Board of Pardons and Paroles is working with several states agencies and faith-based organizations to provide the necessary transition services.

The transition center also frees up space in Alabama's prisons. Then-Governor Bob Riley proposed a number of reforms designed to address the crowding of prisons and to ensure violent criminals remain behind bars.

The transition program is demanding. Each parolee assigned to the center must meet obligations to participate in treatment, vocational and life skills training, meet community service requirements, and also work at the center.

The male parolees at the Thomasville transition center will have come before the Board of Pardons and Paroles for consideration and found to be unsuitable for regular parole. Instead, they will be paroled with a special condition that they must first successfully complete the LIFE Tech program. The program consists of orientation and assessment week, the therapeutic community phased program that follows them throughout their time at LIFE Tech, along with an 18-week educational component (30 weeks in total). Those who successfully complete the program will be transferred to regular parole and monitored to ensure a continuation of substance abuse treatment if needed, and assistance in locating a job and a home to maximize the potential of making them productive, law-abiding citizens.